

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 PC-04 EA-11 RSR-01 /141 W
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R 150950 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9742

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, BG

SUBJECT: BHASHANI HUNGER STRIKE

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT AT PUBLIC MEETING IN
PALTAN MAIDAN MAY 14, NAP/ B LEADER MAULANA
BHASHANI ANNOUNCED HE WOULD BEGING HUNGER STRIKE
TODAY IN SUPPORT HIS DEMANDS BDG ACT TO CONTROL
SOARING FOOD AND CLOTHING PRICES, END POLITICAL
REPRESSION, AND RESTORE CONDITIONS OF PERSONAL
SAFETY IN COUNTRY. BHASHANI CRITICIZED BDG FOR
ATTEMPTING SHIFT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURES TO
BUREAUCRACY. HE APPEALED TO FOLLOWERS TO LAUNCH
PEACEFUL PROTEST MOVEMENT INCLUDING DAILY HUNGER MARCHES.

2. ALLEGING BDG USING COLLABORATORS ACT TO HARASS
POLITICAL OPPOSITION, BHASHANI DEMANDED REPEAL OF
ACT AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES.
TO XRBSTORE PUBLIC ORDER, HE CALLED FOR BAN ON
LAL BAHINE AND AWAMI VOLUNTEER CORPS.

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3. BHASHANI AGAIN CALLED ON PM TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO CHINA TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION FROM BOTH CHINA AND PAKISTAN AS WELL AS TRADE/ AID. HE WARNED MUJIB NOT TO DEPEND TOO MUCH ON INDIA WHOSE " RULERS AND BIG CAPITALISTS" BHASHANI BLAMES FOR BANGLADESH ECONOMIC CRISIS. TO BHUTTO, HE APPEALED FOR REPATRIATION DETAINED BENGALIEES AND RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH.

4. REFERRING TO MUSLIM BANGLA' S SLOGAN OF FREE BENGAL, BHASHANI STATED HE HAD LONG SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT BENGAL.

5. COMMENT: BHASHANI' S POSITION AS PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION TO AL HAS BEEN ERODING RECENTLY SUN AND HUNGER STRIKE-- ORIGINALLY BILLED AS " FAST TO DEATH " -- IS GRAND AND EFFORT RECOVER LOST GROUND. BHASHANI' S AMBIGUOUS REFERENCES TO SLOGAN OF MUSLIM BANGLA MOVEMENT SUGGESTS HE IS UNWILLING RISK LOSS OF CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM SUPPORT THAT WOULD FOLLOW HIS UNEQUIVOCAL REJECTION OF ANTI- BD ELEMENTS.
NEWBERRY

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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